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Albert and Leary Named Associate Deans

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—Lee A. Albert

Dean David B. Filvaroff has named two associate deans at the Law School. They are Lee A. Albert and Virginia A. Leary, both veteran members of the faculty. Leary and Albert are replacing Marjorie Girth and John H. Schlegel, who remain on the faculty as full-time teachers.

Alan S. Carrel continues as associate dean for external affairs and Ellen M. Gibson remains as associate dean for legal information services.

"The Law School now has a very distinguished dean who will have the time — and hopefully the resources — to undertake significant planning and implementation. I look forward to participating in the mission," says Albert, who is an expert in U.S. constitutional law.

Leary, widely recognized as an authority in international law and human rights, says that she "had the good fortune" of working with Filvaroff on an international law project several years ago while he was at the University of Texas.

"I was delighted that we were able to persuade him to come to Buffalo as our dean, and as associate dean I am happy to be working with him again," Leary says.

A soft spoken intellectual who came to teach at UB Law School in 1975, Lee Albert, 51, has kept a low profile over the years. He readily admits that during his tenure as a law teacher, "I had some ideas about how the Law School might be improved. So when our new dean asked me to be an associate dean, I decided it was time for me to see what law school administration looked like from the other side of the table."

His responsibilities at the Law School include curriculum planning, academic affairs, financial allocations, computer planning, and a variety of other matters.

According to Albert, time spent as a faculty member has given him a perspective and sensitivity which he finds invaluable as an associate dean. "My years of carping have taught me to have patience with complaints," he says. "I can well understand how administrative confusion, delay or foul-ups look to people who are not in charge of administration."

Raised in New Jersey, Albert graduated summa cum laude from Rutgers University with a B.A. in 1960. He then attended Yale Law School and graduated magna cum laude in 1963. While at Yale, he was editor-in-chief of the Yale Law Journal.

He began his legal career by serving as law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White from 1963 to 1965. In



Lee A. Albert

those days, Supreme Court justices had two clerks, not four as they do today. As a result, Albert developed a close personal relationship with Mr. Justice White, who was then in his early years on the court.

Albert fondly remembers discussing various cases with Justice White after White heard the arguments in court — but before the justices conferred together to state their views and cast their votes.

"Each week, we would argue about how he should decide. He always gave me a full hearing and the opportunity to persuade him, which sometimes worked, and sometimes didn't," Albert recalls. Justice White frequently asked Albert to provide the first and occasionally the second draft of an opinion.

Justice White dissented in several criminal cases, *Miranda v. Arizona* being the most well known, "which I did not — happily — have any responsibility for drafting," says Albert. "We tended to disagree on constitutional criminal procedure cases, but we agreed on civil rights matters with no difficulty at all.

"My work there was always fascinating

and gave me a lifetime interest in constitutional law."

After leaving the U.S. Supreme Court, Albert served as a lecturer in law at the London School of Economics and Political Science until 1967. It was in London that he met his wife, Elisabeth.

On their return to the United States, the Alberts lived in New York City where he became an assistant U.S. attorney. From 1968 to 1970, he directed the Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law at Columbia University, a legal services back-up center. At Columbia, Albert argued welfare law cases, such as *Goldberg v. Kelly*, a landmark Due Process case, in the U.S. Supreme Court and various federal circuit and district courts.

While he found that work "exciting," he was enticed to enter teaching by his alma mater, Yale Law School, where he became as associate professor of law. He stayed there until 1975 when he came to UB.

"I felt I needed more time to reflect on law and society than practice permitted me to do," he says. "I wanted to write, to think and to teach."

This fall, despite his administrative duties, Albert continues to teach a course on law, science and medicine, and in the spring he plans to teach a seminar on constitutional litigation. Teaching, he feels, will be a pleasant respite from the paperwork and bureaucratic negotiation that is necessary to get things done in the Law School. "Being part of a large state system makes change complicated..." he says.

If he had one wish, "it would be for a brand new shiny building that would accommodate the needs of the various groups at the Law School better than O'Brien Hall."

Virginia A. Leary, 62, while anxious to get back to her academic work and full-time teaching, nevertheless is enthusiastic about her new role as an associate dean in the Law School. "I'm very interested in the dean's ideas and want to help him with the development of the Law School," she says, citing, as an example,



Virginia A. Leary

her key role in planning for the development of the Canadian Studies Program (CSP) in the Law School. (Professor Robert S. Berger heads the CSP for the University). Along with Professor David M. Engel, she is also helping to establish an International Legal Studies Program.

Leary's main responsibilities as an administrator, however, relate to student affairs. Though she misses teaching and research, and regrets the loss of time for involvement in international law and human rights matters, she says "I really like students and enjoy working with them. It's the best part of my job. They have various kinds of problems — sometimes illness, sometimes an overload of work, or concern with family problems — and I'm here for them.

"Students also have a lot of suggestions about ways in which the school can be improved. They really care a great deal about the Law School."

The needs of an increasing number of law students with disabilities also fall under her jurisdiction. A faculty committee, chaired by Professor Engel, is currently exploring

ways in which the school can be more responsive to their special problems.

"Some are visually impaired, others are in wheelchairs. We want to have a program to take into account their individual situations," Leary says. "We're all disabled in a lot of ways. There's no such thing as a normal person...It's an interesting and important thing that's being done."

A courageous and energetic crusader in the struggle for world-wide human rights, and a widely recognized authority on international law, Leary has been on the faculty here since 1976. Last year, she occupied the Ariel Swallows Chair in Human Rights at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

She received her law degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1950 and doctorate in political science in 1980 from the Graduate Institute of International Studies at the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

Leary also earned diplomas in 1971 from the Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands and from the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Utah, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

In 1984, Leary headed a three-member mission that traveled to the Philippines to investigate reports of widespread police and military brutality. The mission was sponsored by the International Commission of Jurists, which is linked to the United Nations.

The mission to the Philippines found "widespread human rights abuses by the army and police, including illegal killings, massacres, burning of villages, arbitrary arrests and torture," she reports.

Last year, Leary was one of five University at Buffalo faculty members who received grants from the Canadian government to pursue Canadian study projects. Leary's grant called for a study of "dispute settlement" as related to Niagara River toxic wastes.

Before joining the UB law faculty, Leary was an official, working on legal matters, for the International Labour Standards Department in Geneva, Switzerland. ■

Career Development Office Reports Latest Trends

More and more UB Law graduates continue to choose careers in public interest law: 10 percent, or 27 of 272 employed graduates in the class of 1987 entered public interest practice last year, reports Audrey Koscielniak, director of the Career Development Office. (The category includes public defender, legal services offices and other publicly and privately funded organizations.) This is an increase of 3 percent over the class of 1986, which has 208 employed graduates, and 2 percent over the class 1985, which has 244 employed graduates. According to the National Association for Law Placement, 3 percent of all American law school graduates select public interest practice.

Another trend is the increase in the number of graduates who choose private practice. UB Law grads are earning higher salaries in private practice than ever before — and they're staying in Buffalo.

While a growing number of our law students show an interest in public practice, the percentage of Buffalo students who enter private firms — 60 percent, or 162 graduates in 1987 — compares favorably to the national average, which is 64 percent, according to Koscielniak. That 60 percent is an increase of 6 percent over the previous year and 3 percent over the class of 1985.

Approximately 40 percent (109) of the class of 1987 remained in the Buffalo metropolitan area. In the class of 1986, 32 percent (68) remained in the area, and in the class of 1985, 36 percent (87) stayed.

Koscielniak also reported a new record high for a starting salary — \$82,500 in New York City. The average starting salary for the class of 1987 was \$29,547, up from \$28,294.

While salaries have gone up, "I don't think it's the starting salaries that keep graduates in Buffalo," Koscielniak says. "A lot of the firms that are hiring our recent graduates are not the high paying firms that you read about in the headlines. Most pay

only around \$22,000 to start.

"But many of our graduates like the quality of life in Western New York and want to stay in Buffalo, so they're joining the small — and very small — general practice firms that are so prevalent here."

In the business and industry category, which includes corporations, financial institutions, insurance companies and public accounting firms, there was a decline in interest for the class of 1987. Only 5 percent (13) selected that employment option, down from 11 percent in the class of 1986 and 7 percent in the class of 1985. Nationally, about 9 percent of all law graduates are classified in business and industry.

"But the situation appears to be changing for the class of 1989. In Fall '88, public accounting firms were pleased by the number and quality of Buffalo applicants on their interview schedules," Koscielniak reports. "We have an excellent tax program, and employers find Buffalo graduates attractive candidates. It also helps that Buffalo graduates in accounting firms have done a fine job of encouraging their firms to recruit our students."

There was also a slight decline in government employment. The class of 1987 had 11 percent (31 graduates) go into government service, which includes federal, state and local levels. This was down 2 percent from previous years.

However, the percentage of students pursuing advanced degrees — both non-law and law — increased after a decline in 1986. Four percent of the class of 1987 (12 students) are studying for MBA's and Ph.D's, and 2 percent (5 students) went on for LL.M's. ■

Applications Surge 16 Percent for Class of 1991

UB Law School enjoyed a 16 percent increase in the number of applicants this year, up from 1,435 in 1987 to 1,723 in 1988. Aundra C. Newell, assistant dean for law school admissions, says this rate reflects the

nationwide surge of 16 percent reported by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC).

Of the applications received, 540 students were extended offers to study at UB. An unprecedented 304 students paid tuition deposits and 262 ultimately enrolled.

Last year, 663 applicants were extended offers and 258 enrolled. Most entering classes in recent history have fallen between 250 and 270 students.

"Getting into a good school is tougher today, and more people recognize that UB is a quality school," says Newell, commenting on the dramatic increase in the number of applicants.

"When students compare UB to other law schools, they quickly discover that we have a notable history. We are the only law school in this area. We enjoy a national reputation. Last but not least, the tuition is comparatively low."

The larger applicant pool makes UB increasingly more competitive as well as more diverse, she points out. "We are in a position to pick and choose."

Newell reports that the class of 1991 is comprised of 140 males and 118 females. Fifty-six are non-white. Of the minority students, 29 are male, 27 female.

The median Law School Aptitude Test scores of all students is 31. The highest possible score on the test is 48. Their median Grade Point Average is 3.23.

While 238 of the new students hail from New York, UB Law has attracted students this year from 11 other states as well. Foreign students also arrived from Brunei, Canada, France, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jamaica, United Kingdom, and Zaire.

The large number of applications was "unexpected and surprising," Newell says.

According to Law Services Report, the newsletter of the LSAC, during the past four years "legal education had prepared itself for a continued decline in applications, or at best for a period of stability."

So why the rise? Some observers think the stock market crash in October prompted many prospective M.B.A.s to switch course, and it was too late in the game for them to try for medical school.